



MEDIA AVAILABILITY

For Immediate Release
July 20, 2006

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Inflatable Dam Repair Update, Site Tour

Repair Work Begins; Cranes Move In, Cofferdams Placed in Russian River

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) will host a media availability on Monday, July 24 at 2pm to discuss the repair work taking place on its leaking inflatable dam in the Russian River. Members of the media will meet at the Agency's administration building for a briefing and then drive to the site of the dam to view the large crane, coffer dams and other repair equipment being utilized to fix the dam.

What to expect:

- Interviews: Key project staff members will be available to discuss the impacts of the repair work taking place, including the deflation of the dam, addition of coffer dams, river diversion, and how the Agency is continuing to meet water demand.
- Visuals: Visuals will include the rubber dam deflated, a large crane that will lift the inflatable dam so it can be inspected and repaired, and other repair equipment/measures.
- Accessibility: Agency staff will guide you near the repair work area to offer key visuals and interviews.

Meeting Location:

Sonoma County Water Agency Administration Building
404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

TIME: 2pm. We will leave for the dam at **2pm** from the administration building.

RSVP Contact: Please call Brad Sherwood at 707.521.6204 if you are planning to attend. There is no cell phone reception at the dam site, so plan accordingly.

Repair Schedule Update:

To Date:

- Agency staff and Bridgestone representatives are monitoring the operation of the inflatable dam around the clock.
- The facility has been able to meet current high summer water demands.

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- Agency staff and Bridgestone representatives developed a repair schedule.
- No bids for repair work from potential contractors were submitted to the Agency.
- The Agency has contracted with K.G. Walters Construction, a Santa Rosa based engineering contractor, to perform preparation work for the repair of the dam.
- Temporary coffer dams installed to isolate work area from the river.

July 24, 2006:

- Bridgestone technicians and other repair contractors begin repair work on the inflatable dam. Cranes will be utilized to lift the dam in order for repair work to commence. Repair work is estimated to be completed in one to two weeks.

Below are the steps being implemented by the Agency to begin repair work on the inflatable dam:

Contracts and Agreements:

Temporary Coffor Dams: A temporary dam plan has been developed to create a work zone in the Russian River in order to repair the existing inflatable dam. The coffer dams, also made of rubber, will divert river flow to emergency wet wells.

Construction Contract to Assist with Repairs:

K.G. Walters Construction, a Santa Rosa based engineering contractor, has been contracted to perform the necessary preparation work in advance of the repair of the rubber dam. This scope of work includes placing temporary coffer dams and dewatering the work area, unbolting the dam and lifting the dam to provide access for the repair crew from Bridgestone Rubber, and resetting the dam.

Bridgestone Technical Support:

Bridgestone will provide technical specifications for some elements of the repair work, including technical support and advice during the work required to open the dam and prepare for the actual repair of the rubber. Bridgestone will also provide specialized labor and equipment to make the required repair to the inflatable dam.

Current Inflatable Dam Status:

Water diversion from the river to the Mirabel ponds is being maintained and water demand is being met. The inflatable dam has been deflated and coffer dams are being placed in the Russian River in order to divert water around the work area.

Existing emergency wet wells (approximately 100 feet down stream of the dam) have been activated as an alternate means to maintain the diversion of water to the Mirabel ponds. As a back up, the Agency has additional pumps on site to divert water from areas behind the dam to the ponds.

The Agency continues to encourage its water retail providers to continue implementation of water conservation measures and be prepared to operate local water supply sources as it repairs damage to its inflatable dam.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.